



**THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VANCOUVER**

AMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 7, 2021

Attendance

Present: Cole Evans (President), Eshana Bhangu (VP Academic & University Affairs), Mary Gan (VP Finance), Lauren Benson (VP Administration, left at 1 pm), Saad Shoaib (VP External), Keith Hester (Managing Director), Lorris Leung (Senior Student Services Manager), Mitchell Prost (Student Services Manager), Sheldon Goldfarb (Archivist & Clerk of Council)

Guest: Michael Kingsmill (Design Office)

Recording Secretary: Sheldon Goldfarb

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm and took place by videoconference.

Agenda

- The agenda was adopted (Saad, Mary).

Minutes

- The minutes of June 30 were sent to a later email vote.

Get Thrifty

- Cole:
 - Looking at solutions for Get Thrifty.
 - Trying to accommodate the work they want to do (expanding their space) so they don't have to wait for the Auditorium project.
- Michael Kingsmill presented details on the two projects.
- It was agreed that Cole and Michael would get in touch with Get Thrifty to discuss next steps.

[Lauren left.]

Masks

- Cole:
 - UBC wants us to change our policy to say masks are recommended instead of required.

- This would be in line with other UBC buildings and the BC Public Health Office (PHO).
- The AMS Health & Safety Committee reports that it's hard to get people to comply with the mask requirement, given the current situation (the relaxing of restrictions by the government).
- Policy I-7A would not be enforced.
- Saad:
 - One of four people in the Nest are not wearing masks.
 - It's increasingly hard to enforce a mask requirement.
 - It's important to be on the same page as the University.
 - We have to recognize that students have different comfort levels.
- Cole:
 - Should we have a mask requirement that's not enforced?
 - Or should we shift to masks being recommended, something we don't have to enforce?
- Eshana:
 - Last year we made the call to mandate masks before the PHO did.
 - Some students are still worried that we're moving too fast.
 - There is value to a mask mandate over the summer.
- Cole:
 - The problem is enforcement.
- Saad:
 - We can't ask for proof of vaccination, and there's low staff capacity for enforcement.
- Eshana:
 - Why can't we tell people to wear a mask?
- Cole:
 - That's our current rule.
 - We just don't have the people to enforce it.
 - It's not fair to have people go around the Nest and ask people to wear masks.
 - I'm more than happy to keep the mask mandate for the summer, but enforcement is the issue.
 - More and more people coming from other buildings will just think this is UBC: no masks.
 - Clubs are confused. Other buildings don't require a mask. The Nest does.
- Saad:
 - In the past it was the law.
 - Now we no longer have the authority to enforce.
- Mitchell:
 - Could keep the mandate, just not do more to enforce it.

- Cole:
 - What's the point of having a mask requirement if we don't enforce it?
- Eshana:
 - Still some enforcement going on.
- Mitchell:
 - It doesn't have to be active.
 - Could just be posters and community-based.
- Eshana:
 - Can we fix the staffing issue?
- Saad:
 - There's already a posting for an assistant building manager.
- Eshana:
 - Is there any volunteer interest?
- Cole:
 - It would take 2-3 weeks to arrange that.
 - And there will be less mask-wearing now that more people are vaccinated.
- Mitchell:
 - Let it be a slow change, gradual.
- Cole:
 - Passive enforcement is where we've been anyway.
- Sheldon:
 - Council could repeal the policy at the July 21 Council meeting.
- Saad:
 - Get Council feedback on it.
- Cole:
 - Already spoke about it when we laid out the Restart Plan.
- Eshana:
 - Or just keep it through the summer.
- Cole:
 - I think we'll just keep things the way they are.

Executive Updates

- *Saad's update:*
 - Sheldon, Lauren, and I met with Regent College, and I will be drafting an MoU on securing student lists on a regular basis, like the MoU with UBC.
 - Want to make sure Regent students get the information they need.
 - Once we do have a draft, we'll probably do a legal review.
- *Mitchell's update:*
 - Received the two new vehicles for Safewalk.
 - Very exciting.

- Outfitting them with AMS branding.

- *Lorris's update:*
 - Have done three initial interviews for Policy Advisor. Two more to go.

- *Eshana's update:*
 - Mandating vaccines: shifting to go to extra measures in general.
 - Already more than 3,900 responses to the Return to Campus survey.
 - Will probably present something to Council.

- *Mary's update:*
 - Budget.
 - U-Pass subsidy.
 - Fee subsidies.
 - Opt-out/opt-in forms.
 - Troubleshooting club and Constituency financial issues.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 pm.

